



Minutes Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting

December 6-7, 2013

Natural Resource Building, Room 172, Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:

Miranda Wecker, Chair
Brad Smith, Vice Chair
Jay Holzmilller
Robert Kehoe
Rollie Schmitt
Jay Kehne
Conrad Mahnken
Larry Carpenter

Department Staff:

Phil Anderson, Director
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director
William Frymire, AGO
Joe Shorin, AGO
Mike Grossman, AGO
Nate Pamplin
Jim Scott
Randi Thurston

Dan Budd
Joanna Eide
Mike Cenci
Steve Crown
Lisa Veneroso
Ron Warren
John Whalen
Heather Reed
Cindy Le Fleur
Brad James

Commission Staff:

Tami Lininger

Public:

Ron Gardner
Robert Rao
Melanie Rabaglia
Kevin Lanier
Nathan Bryant
Perry Harmon
Jeff Eklund
Ben Lowery
Andy Shaub
Terry White
Kody Balderston
Kim Malcom
Shane Vanderlinda
Jeremy Koch
Merry Coleman
John Hill
Stephan Pittman
Jensen Codera
Llyod Bird
Greg Johnson
Ted Fehr
Curtis Snyder
Jack Hollingsworth
James Rubell
Ron Schwartz
Jim Wilere

Lisa Askew
Joe Verdoes
Steve Gacke
David Jennings
Oliver Smith
Lisa Woodward
Lyle Fox
Daniel Hubbard
Joseph Princen
Ben Rogers
Tom Millirons
Arvyne Lensico
Darrell Smith
Bill Brieru
Tracy Richmond
Frances Estalilla
Bill DeVrient
Trenton Codera
Dave Hamit
James Beasley
Billy Joe Anderson
Joe Princen
Tom Wilkin
Fred Newl
Norm Reinhardt
Aaron Jordan

Stan Kramer
Tom Davis
Louise Reed
Ed Fedder
Mike Nelson
Randy Woodward
Ray Vermillion
Loren Gee
Art Holman
Robert Gray
Time Stuart
David Gratzner
Chuck Stewart
Kristina Hinsworth
Adin Daneken
Rick Moore
Martin Sallis
Brad Deck
Aleaz Patton
GW "Bill" Osborn
Joe Superfiskey
Lael Johnson
Bob Lebu
Don Melendez
Christian Bakker
Kellon Lindley

Bob Lake
Tom Bugert
Andrew Marks
Tim Hamilton
Mark Betrozoff
Bryanne Zimmerman
Ian Winder
Andrew Moravec
William Bakker
Gabe Reed
Mike Curtis
Darrin Koob
Garrett Sanislo
Nick Petosa
Clarissa Snyder
Ivan Khorseel
Randy Stoneman
Ross Barkhurst
Keith Johnson
Allyn Cole
Daniel Brown
Allans Hollingsworth
Greg DeLarp
Joe Koski
C. John Campbell
Jason Bun

Nathan Crouch	Patrick Facau	Emily McCarty	Glen Bayer
Cami Bayer	Josh Kennedy	Alexander Carlson	Zachary Chaviers
Lee Fryholm	Mike Ainsworth	Scott Landis	David Hollingsworth
Mike Violette	Harry Barber	Robert Fehlen	Butch Smith

Friday, December 6, 2013

Chair Wecker called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion:

- Commissioner Mahnken – BPA – Hatchery Reform Policy
- Commissioner Kehne – Grazing season with wolf and livestock operations
- Chair Wecker – ADA Committee
 - Youth Council report

b. Meeting Minute Approval

- November 8-9, 2013 regular meeting

Vice Chair Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Schmitten approve the minutes as proposed. Motion passed. Commissioner Carpenter abstained

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Bob Lake – Grays Harbor

Joe Verdoes – Puget Sound Shrimp Policy

Tom Davis – Skagit Elk & HPA Rules

3. Director's Report

The Director briefed the Commission on the following items:

- SW Washington elk hoof lesions
- Coastal crab fishery
- Federal funding
- Legislative activities
- NOAA Fisheries reorganization
- National Marine Resources Advisory Council
- Co-management update
- Tribal hunting agreements
- Wolf management activities
- Moon snails

Deputy Director Joe Stohr provided the Commission with an update on work at the Boyd's Creek Hatchery and Point No Point boat launch. In regards to delisting of gray wolves under federal law, the Commission indicated its strong support for the Department's stated position of support for federal delisting. The Commission agreed to co-sign the letter to the Service describing the Department's position.

4. HPA Rules - Briefing

Randi Thurston briefed the Commission on the purpose, scope and timeline for updating the hydraulic code rules.

5. Proposed Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Hearing and Decision

The Commission considered approval of three land transactions presented by Dan Budd, Real Estate Section Manager, Wildlife Program, Steve Pozzanghera, and Charlie Raines from Forterra for the protection of critical fish and wildlife habitat, enhancement of public recreation opportunities.

No one signed up to provide public testimony for this item:

Vice Chair Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Kehne, to approve the proposed land transactions as presented. Motion passed.

6. Dive Fishery Rules - Decision

Deputy Chief Mike Cenci briefed the Commission and requested approval on the proposed changes to commercial scallop, sea cucumber, and urchin dive fishery rules to reduce illegal geoduck harvest and streamline, clarify, and update rule language.

Vice Chair Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Carpenter, to approve the proposed updates as presented. Motion passed.

7. Batch 5 WAC Overhaul Technical Changes – Decision

Joanna Eide, Criminal Justice Liaison/Regulations Coordinator, and Deputy Chief, Mike Cenci briefed the Commission and requested approval of the 5th batch of WAC overhaul technical changes. These changes include repealing outdated rules, consolidating rules, correcting references, and updating language for clarity.

Vice Chair Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Schmitten approve the proposed updates as presented with floor amendments. Motion passed.

Note that item 9 was heard prior to item 8.

8. Naselle River Internal Combustion Motors – Briefing and Public Hearing

Ron Warren, Region 6 Fish Program Manager, briefed the Commission and held a public hearing on the reorganization of WAC 232-28-619, including changes on the Naselle River.

The following person provided input:
Steve Gacke

9. San Poil Sixteen Walleye Daily Limit – Briefing and Public Hearing

John Whalen briefed the Commission and held a public hearing on the reorganization of WAC 232-28-619, including increasing the daily bag limit for walleye on the lower San Poil River from 8 fish to 16.

No one signed up to provide public testimony for this item:

10. Technical Geographic Split WAC 232-28-619 – Briefing and Public Hearing

Joanna Eide, Criminal Justice Liaison/Regulations Coordinator, briefed the Commission and held a public hearing on WAC 232-28-619 that is a large rule, containing all water bodies of the state that have exceptions to the general statewide recreational fishing rules. At the request of the Code Reviser, and to maximize efficiency and understandability of the code, the department proposed splitting this massive rule into more manageable pieces based on geographic area. These changes are technical in nature and do not affect the underlying effect of the provisions.

No one signed up to provide public testimony for this item:

11. Using Descending Devices to Improve the Survivability of Released Rockfish – Briefing

Heather Reed, Coastal Marine Resources Policy Coordinator, provided the Commission with a briefing on recent studies that show improved survivability of rockfish released back to the depth of capture using descending devices and reported on actions taken through the Pacific Fishery Management Council to approve lower mortality rates for coastal rockfish released with descending devices compared to rockfish released at the surface. Heather Reed and Ron Gardner, Puget Sound Anglers, provided an overview of outreach efforts to improve awareness of recreational anglers on the benefits of using descending devices to release rockfish and properly identifying the rockfish they catch and release.

12. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), the Commission met in executive session to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency is, or is likely to become, a party. No action was taken in executive session, and the public was not permitted to attend the executive session.

Chair Wecker recessed the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Saturday, December 7, 2013

Chair Wecker called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

13. Open Public Input

The following person provided input for this item:

David Jennings - Rockfish

14. Grays Harbor Salmon Management – Briefing & Public Hearing

Ron Warren, Region 6 Fish Program Manager, briefed the Commission on Grays Harbor salmon fishery management and challenges. The Commission instructed the department to publish the draft Grays Harbor Salmon Management Policy and allow the public to comment on it for 30 days.

The following people provided public testimony for this item:

John Campbell	Frances Estalilla	Nathan Crouch
Allan Hollingsworth	Jack Hollingsworth	Joe Superfiskey
Bob Lake	Andy Mitsby	Jim Rubert
Martin Sallis	Robert Barkhurst	Dave Hamilton
David Hollingsworth	Loren Gee	Tim Hamilton
Art Holman	Norm Reinhardt	Melanie Rabaglia
Robert Rao	Duane Inglin	

15. Review of Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Management Policy C-3001 – Briefing and Public Hearing

Cindy Le Fleur, Region 5 Fish Program Manager, and Brad James, Fish Biologist, provided the Commission with information regarding policy C-3001 and provided updated information on stock status, fishery management, and other information for the annual review. The Commission instructed the department to publish the proposed policy for public review and comment. The Commission will hear public input at the January 10-11, 2014 meeting and a decision is planned for February.

The following people provided public testimony for this item:

Robert Fehlen
Harry Barber
Butch Smith

16. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

The annual meeting with the Governor is scheduled for December 16, since this is not a regular meeting time Chair Wecker and Vice-chair Smith will represent the full Commission at the meeting and report back. They will also request a meeting with the full Commission as soon as possible in 2014.

Chair Wecker adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

TLL

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant